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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

Polkton Man Killed by Intruders

Polkton resident Jamie Watts was shot and killed in his home on Moore Street early Wednesday morning, April 10. Polkton Police Chief Matthew Norris said that no one else was injured during the incident, and that authorities are looking for two or more suspects. Investigators do not know what the motive of the homicide was or whether the perpetrators knew Watts.

Watts leaves behind three children and his fiancée who is pregnant. The couple were supposed to be married this week. Friends and neighbors described Watts as a good man and a good father.

The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation is assisting the Polkton Police Department in the investigation.

Board of Education Regular Meeting is Scheduled for April 29

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, April 29 in the Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

The meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. with the Closed Session. Open Session should begin at about 5:30 p.m.

Special Primary Election Set for May 14 for 9th Congressional District

This Primary Election is only for Republican and Unaffiliated voters. Unaffiliated voters can only vote a Republican ballot.

A special primary election will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, to elect the Republican candidate for the upcoming September 10 General Election to fill the vacancy in North Carolina's 9th congressional district in the United States House of Representatives for the remainder of the 116th United States Congress. Dan McCready, a Marine veteran and businessman, is already set as the Democrat Party candidate in the September election. Libertarian Jeff Scott and Green Party member Allen Smith are the other candidates.

The seat has been vacant since the opening of the 116th Congress, following the refusal of the North Carolina State Board of Elections to certify the results of the November 2018 election in the district due to allegations of electoral fraud.

If a primary runoff is required, the runoff will be held on September 10 and the general election will be held on November 5, 2019.

The filing period for candidates ended on March 15. Ten Republicans are running in the May 14 Primary Election. They are Stevie Hull, Matthew Ridenhour, Stony Rushing, Fern Shubert, Albert Wiley, Christopher Anglin, James Bishop, Leigh Brown, Kathie Day and Gary Dunn. Among Republicans, neither Harris nor Robert Pittenger, the incumbent whom Harris defeated in the 2018 primary election, will run.

The deadline for Anson County residents to register to vote in this Primary Election is this Friday, April 19 at 5 p.m. You may register by mail or in person at the Board of Elections Office (BOA), located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. If you are registered to vote in Anson County, and your name or address has not changed, you do not need to register again to vote in this election.

Voters who are not registered in Anson County by the April 19 deadline may still register and vote during One Stop Early Voting only, and will be required to provide documentation of their identity and residence. Contact the Board of Elections for details.

One Stop Early Voting begins next Wednesday, April 24 and runs through Friday, May 10 at 1 p.m.

Absentee by Mail Voting is available upon request from the voter, a near relative or legal guardian. New state law requires that all requests must be made on the official Absentee Ballot Request Form, which is available online at www.co.anson.nc.us/CountyServices/BoardofElections.aspx or at the Board of Elections Office. You may apply in person at the BOA Office or by mail. The deadline to apply for an Absentee by Mail Ballot is May 7 at 5 p.m. Near relative is defined as: spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent or stepchild.

For more information contact Steve Adams, Director of Elections, at 704-994-3223 or sadams@co.anson.nc.us. The Board of Elections Office is located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. The mailing address is: PO Box 768, Wadesboro NC 28170.

Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge Youth Fishing Rodeo is April 27

The Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge will hold their annual Youth Fishing Rodeo on Saturday, April 27 on Sullivan Pond at the Refuge. This event is free and lots of fun for all ages. It will be held from 8 a.m. until 12 noon. The pond has been stocked with 400 catfish! There will be prizes for the biggest fish, smallest fish and most fish caught. Kids 15 and under may enter the rodeo, but all ages are invited to participate.

Fishing rods, tackle and bait will be available if you do not have your own. Also, Refuge staff and volunteers will be available to work with participants on their fishing skills. So, come on out for this great outdoor event and help celebrate an eventful national pastime.

A hot dog lunch will be provided by the Friends of the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge following the fishing activities at 11 a.m. Other goodies will also be provided! Adults may stay and fish after 12:00 noon.

The Pee Dee NWR is located 3 miles south of Ansonville, at 5770 Highway 52 North. Call 704-694-4424 for more information.



Mock Crash at Anson High School Teaches a Dramatic Lesson

Law enforcement agencies of Anson County do not want the class of 2019 going out in a crash. Sergeant Haywood of the Wadesboro Police Department, along with Deputy Gulleddge of the Anson County Sheriff's Office conducted a mock crash at Anson High School on Thursday, April 11 at 10:00 a.m. The mock crash aimed to send a hard-hitting reminder of the dangers and consequences of unsafe driving behaviors - such as poor seat belt use and risk-taking behaviors such as speeding and distracted driving - prior to prom.

The Wadesboro Police Department along with the Anson County Sheriff's Office also used the event to remind parents, grandparents and caregivers about the importance of talking with their teen to reinforce teen driving laws, and to set their own family driving rules.

Mock Crashes - Dramatic Reality Check

The mock crash uses real crashed vehicles set up on school grounds and engage student participants to dramatically act out roles of crash victims. The school's juniors and seniors watched the demonstration and learned how emergency responders conduct rescue efforts in real-time.



Participating in the event were the Wadesboro Police Department, Anson County Sheriff's Office, Polkton Police Department, Anson EMS, Wadesboro Fire Department, Anson Rescue, Anson 911, Williamson Wrecker Service, Anson County Safe Kids, MED Center Air, and Anson High School.

Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer and Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid said, "We would like to thank all the agencies that made this a success for our high school. We would also like to give a special thanks to Anson High School Principal Chris Stinson and his staff for all the behind the scene work that made this event flow so smoothly."

They continued, "Mock crashes are a dramatic presentation to educate teenagers about the true consequences of poor driving decisions. When students see their friends and peers carried out in body bags, and another being handcuffed, it hits home. It's a strong message that aims to influence their driving choices, especially at such a potentially dangerous time on the road."

Important Role of Parents and Safe Teen Driving The Wadesboro Police Department along with the Anson County Sheriff's Office is urging parents to talk to their teen about the dangers and consequences of underage drinking and unsafe driving behaviors. We encourage students to always buckle up to keep them safe.

Special Olympics Spring Games are May 1

Special Olympics Anson County Spring Games will be held on Wednesday, May 1 at Anson Middle School. Opening Ceremonies will take place at 9:30 a.m. Anson Middle School host this year's Spring Games. The rain date is Friday, May 10.

For more information about the Games including community volunteer interest, please contact Sylvia Tillman, Coordinator, at (704) 694-4417.

Since 1968 the Special Olympics has used the transformative power of sports to improve the lives of children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Nearly 40,000 athletes in North Carolina inspire thousands of coaches, sports officials, local program committee members and event organizers involved in Special Olympics statewide. SONC offers year-round training and competition in 19 Olympic-type sports on local and state levels as well as health and wellness initiatives to improve the health status and increase access to community health resources for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Youth become agents of change through Unified Champion Schools, an education and sports based program created by Special Olympics to build an inclusive environment among youth with and without intellectual disabilities as well as empower them to become youth leaders and create change in their community.

One Woman's Vision: Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of Special Olympics, was a pioneer in the worldwide struggle for rights and acceptance for people with intellectual disabilities. Eunice Shriver Kennedy's sister, Rosemary, had an intellectual disability. They grew up playing sports together and with their family. In those days, there were limited programs and options for someone like Rosemary. Becoming an athlete in college, Eunice Kennedy Shriver began to see that sports could be a common ground to unite people from all walks of life. She put that vision into action in 1962 by inviting young people with intellectual disabilities to a summer day camp she hosted in her backyard. She called it "Camp Shriver."

In September 1962, Eunice Kennedy Shriver revealed that her sister, Rosemary, (also U.S. President Kennedy's sister)—had an intellectual disability, the first such public acknowledgement by the Kennedy family. This was followed by an article in the popular "Saturday Evening Post" which became known as a "watershed in changing attitudes towards people with intellectual disabilities." The piece was read by millions, and further convinced parents that having a child or sibling with an intellectual disability was nothing to feel shame or guilt over.

Out of the shadows in March 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver and the Chicago Park District held a news conference to announce plans for the first "Olympic" games for children with intellectual disabilities.

For up to date information on Special Olympics North Carolina, you may visit www.sonc.net. You can also find the chronology of Special Olympics history at the website.

WIC Program Information

The Anson County WIC program provides supplemental foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health care and community resources to participants. WIC clients now receive an eWIC card.

Packages for children 1 to 5 and for women include benefits for fresh, canned or frozen fruits and vegetables at WIC approved stores. WIC approved yogurt is also available on many food packages.

To be eligible for WIC you must be an infant or child less than five years of age, a woman who is pregnant, breastfeeding, or have given birth within six months.

For more information about WIC or to make an appointment, please call the Anson County Health Department at 704-694-9844, or you can visit the office at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Chair Yoga Offered at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library offers free chair yoga every Wednesday, from 10 to 11 a.m. You don't have to preregister, just come and have fun!

For more information call 704-694-5177.

Free Movie is Runnin' from my Roots

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces that their free movie, *Runnin' from my Roots*, will be shown at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 22 in the Little Theatre. The movie stars Janelle Arthur, Nia Sioux, Leigh Allyn Baker and Aaron O'Connell. Following a very public fall from grace, a country music star seeks refuge in her rural Texas hometown where she rediscovers feelings for her high school sweetheart, the local pastor. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the movie.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Board Meeting at BCSWCD

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 23 at 10:00 a.m. at the BCSWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

For information call 704-694-3516.